

The Library Assistant:

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 225.

NOVEMBER, 1916.

Published Monthly.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Editorial	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
The L.A.A. Roll of Honour (<i>continued</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Proceedings	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Some Principles of Book Selection; By R. G. WILLIAMS	...	...	...	...	...	...	133

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

By kind invitation of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister the second meeting of the Session will be held at the **Royal Society of Medicine**, 1, Wimpole Street, W., on **Wednesday, 15th November, at 7.30 p.m.**, in accordance with the terms of his letter printed below. We hope there will be a hearty response, and that there will be a good muster to greet our host.

The lamented death of Mr. H. W. Checketts has caused a **vacancy on the non-London side of the Council** which will be filled at this Meeting. Nominations for the office should reach the Honorary Secretary not later than the evening of Tuesday, November 14th.

TO THE EDITOR, LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

1, Wimpole Street,
25th Oct., 1916.

DEAR SIR,

MONTHLY REUNIONS.

I understand it has been decided that no regular monthly meetings of the Library Association are to be held this year, and feel quite sure that there were excellent reasons for this decision.

But although the usual supply of papers and formal discussions is impossible just now, it is quite likely that many of the younger members will greatly miss the monthly reunions, and the opportunities they give for friendly chat. I have, therefore, decided to invite the members of the L.A. and L.A.A. to gather here once a month during the winter.

There will be no formality, a comfortable room and light refreshments, and, when possible, interesting exhibits will be provided—those who are present must "do the rest." There are a cinematograph and epidiastope here, so that members if they can get films or interesting lantern slides can brighten the programme. The epidiastope will show books, prints and drawings not exceeding 8 by 8 inches in size.

The first reunion will be arranged for on Wednesday, November 15th, at 7.30 p.m., that is if I receive 12 postcards from members promising to

attend, **not later than a week in advance.** If I don't receive a dozen cards the reunion will not take place, and I will inform everyone who has written that the gathering is "off" for that date. If the idea is appreciated I shall then arrange for a monthly reunion.

Faithfully yours,

J. Y. W. MACALISTER.

NOTE.—We trust that all our readers who possibly can will do their utmost to support Mr. MacAlister in his splendid offer. We hope to be in a position to make a fuller statement in regard to these meetings next month.—ED.

EDITORIAL.

The First War Memorial to Librarians.—Almost immediately after the October General Meeting, at which the question of a memorial to library workers who fall in the War was discussed, particulars reached us of one which is to be erected in the Port Elizabeth (S. Africa) Public Library to the memory of Private A. R. Anderson, Lance-Corporal A. D. Carlisle, and 2nd Lieut. Bertram Wallace, formerly members of the library staff.

The sketch of the proposed design has been placed on view in the library, and has aroused considerable public interest. It will consist of a panel placed in the niche in the lobby, and will be modelled in gilt gesso and pearl, the foundation consisting of a board of Spanish mahogany. The nominal cost is estimated at £50. The memorial is four feet long and twenty-two inches wide. At the top are the cross and sphere of life, and below are the figures of Liberty and Justice. Between these are the city coat of arms and motto. The background for this portion of the memorial is in pearl, and the main space of the panel contains the following wording:

" IN MEMORIAM.

Alec Russell Anderson,
Private, South African Telegraph and Signalling Corps.

Died 25th June, 1915,

From injuries received in German South-West Africa.

And

Arthur Dowley Carlisle,
Lce.-Cpl., 1st South African Infantry.
Killed in Action at Delville Wood, France,
16th July, 1916.

And

Bertram Wallis,
2nd Lieut., 13th Batt. Rifle Brigade.
Killed in Action in France,
8th July, 1916.

Who were for different periods on the staff of this Library, and gladly gave their lives in the cause of Liberty and Justice."

Beneath is the hero's laurel wreath, and the bottom of the panel consists of two corner figures of angels, each holding up

the Crown of Life. Between the figures are the words **MORS JANUA VITAE** (Death is the gate of Life).

The original intention was for the Library Committee to erect the memorial, but as many users of the library expressed a wish to be allowed to contribute towards the cost, a subscription list was opened, no subscription to exceed five shillings.

The example set by Port Elizabeth is one which we sincerely trust will be copied by library authorities at home, for, whatever general memorial may ultimately be erected, it is certainly the duty of local authorities to perpetuate by some means the memory of those of their officers who have made the greatest of all sacrifices. We hope to secure a photograph of the memorial shortly for inclusion in our Album.

An Album of Honour.—At the last General Meeting of the Association it was unanimously resolved to proceed immediately with the compilation of a professional record of the War in the form of an Album, on the lines of those previously prepared in connection with the Easter Schools. It is proposed to include photographs of all library workers on service, whether members of the L.A.A. or not, and copies of any newspaper cuttings, etc., relating to them. May we appeal to all our readers to bring this idea to the notice of their colleagues with the Forces, in order that none may be missed. We should be greatly assisted in our work if one member in every library could make himself responsible for collecting copies of the photographs of all his colleagues, as well as any newspaper or other notices which may have appeared. We are not particular as to the kind of photograph sent, but those in post card form lend themselves more readily to suitable mounting. It is hoped that there may be an early response to our appeal in order that we may be able to exhibit some material at the next general meeting. Photographs, etc., should be sent to Mr. H. A. Sharp, Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon.

Hospitality to Colleagues on Service.—Another important matter discussed at the last General Meeting related to the extension of hospitality to professional colleagues on active service (see report of "Proceedings"). There must be many members and friends of the Association in London and other cities who would be glad to meet library workers who may find themselves in a strange land for an hour or two. It seems to us that a very useful work might be done by many of us in this direction, as well as in visiting wounded fellow-workers who may be in hospital many miles from friends. We are not sure at the moment how we can best let the men on service know who is willing to extend such hospitality, but we suggest that any of our readers

who may be able to do something in this way, shall communicate in the first instance with the Honorary Secretary.

The Winter Programme.—The attempt to hold a series of professional meetings during the present winter has fully justified itself. We can honestly say that it is a long time since we attended such an enthusiastic meeting as the one held last month at Shoreditch, and we are looking forward with keen interest to the next one, particulars of which appear on our front page.

L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR (continued).

Birmingham: *F. W. C. PEPPER (20th London Regiment).

Burnley: W. B. COUPLAND (R.G.A.).

Camberwell: †W. J. VELLENOWETH (Army Ordnance Corps).

Cainsborough: J. W. LAMBERT (R.G.A.).

Lincoln: *A. SMITH (28th Royal Fusiliers).

Woolwich: *ERNEST LUKE (1st class signaller, R.G.A.).

KILLED IN ACTION.

***Henry W. Checketts.**—The losses we have had to record from our ranks have been greivous, but we do not disparage any of our heroes when we say that few will be more widely missed and more deeply mourned than Henry Wilfrid Checketts, who fell on the Western Front on September 3rd. Checketts was born at Sparkbrook, Birmingham, on 1st December, 1885. He commenced life at the Arden Road Board School, from which he won a foundation scholarship at the King Edward Sixth's Grammar School, where he remained for two years. His school career was effective and even brilliant, and a long row of prizes represents the many subjects in which he reached distinction. He commenced librarianship as an assistant in the Library of Birmingham University, where he did good work and won the respect and affection of his colleagues. While here he served for some time as Secretary of the Camp Hill Old Edwardians Association, and was co-editor of its magazine. When he resigned there was a portrait and an appreciation in the magazine. In 1911 he became Chief Assistant in the Central Lending Library of the Birmingham Public Libraries, and soon was marked out for promotion, for in less than two years he was placed in charge of the Constitution Hill Branch.

While at the University he discovered the greatest interest for the work of the Library Assistants' Association. Together with Mr. W. Ewart Owen he was instrumental in founding the virile Midland Branch, and was unanimously elected its first Chairman. When the Council of the L.A.A. found it desirable to elect provincial vice-presidents, owing to the rapid growth of its branches throughout the country, the first man distinguished by election to this office was Checketts. Nor did he deem the office a mere sinecure; he attended meetings in London and was present at three Easter Schools; he read several papers before the Association, and gave the impression always of a resolute, high-minded, energetic and loveable personality.

Among his private activities he was a prominent member of the Carr's Lane Chapel at Birmingham, where he was secretary of the influential class called "Number Ten," which for many years has been a marked feature

of this Chapel. He was a member of the two chief debating societies in Birmingham, the Birmingham and Edgbaston Debating Society, and the Central Literary Association. He had relations with the Independent Labour Party, and was on the committee of the Birmingham Branch of the Workers' Educational Association. For a time he was "Prime Minister" of the "Digbeth Parliament," an important debating society in connexion with the Digbeth Institute, and later was leader of the opposition. With all his activities his greatest efforts and skill were devoted to librarianship, and many will remember his happy manner and pleasant speeches at the Holland Easter School, and perhaps even more will they remember his delightful company at the earlier Brussels Easter School. He was a sound, clear thinker; a man of decided opinions, which when once deliberately formed were not easily altered, and he had a vein of the romantic in his disposition which came out in his writings. He wrote verse of no mean order, and his addresses and papers were models of brevity and clear thought. "He grew," as his Chief says, "to be a man of exceptionally high character, which, coupled with his untiring industry and ability, placed him quite in the front rank of the younger librarians."

In closing this imperfect tribute to a really noble life we cannot do better than repeat the fine sonnet,* which he wrote soon after he joined the Birmingham Pals Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment immediately after the outbreak of war. It received point from the fact that he was a good soldier, untiring in his assiduity, cheerful under the monotones of drill and, what seemed to him, the interminably long wait before he went out to fight and, alas, as it has proved, to fall for his land.

TO FRAULEIN J.

A web was woven in the loom of Fate;
 Enmeshed were we within its subtle strands.
 Now torn asunder by War's ruthless hands
 We still will guard our love inviolate.
 For not entirely are we desolate;
 Since while we singly serve our native lands
 Our hearts are held within the firm-knit bands
 Of Friendship; and in thought we re-create
 Occasions past whose memories cannot fade.
 Glad days have been; glad days will come again.
 By intervening horrors undismayed
 We wait in trust until within our ken
 Hosts that are now to mortal hurt arrayed
 Shall scatter to begin the Peace of Men.

At a meeting of the L.A.A. Council, held on 11th October, 1916, the following resolution, moved by Mr. Evan G. Rees and seconded by Mr. Hugh Smith, was ordered to be placed upon the minutes:—

"This Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association Council hears with profound regret of the death of Acting-Sergeant H. W. CHECKETTS in France whilst fighting for his Country, and expresses its deep sympathy with his relatives and friends. The loss is one the Association, as well as Librarianship generally, could ill afford, and the Council desires to place on record its great appreciation of the qualities the late Acting-Sergeant Checketts always displayed as a Member of the Library Profession in addition to his intense enthusiasm for all that appertained to the furtherance of educational ideals."

* This is a version revised by Checketts. The original version, which the present writer prefers, appeared in *The Library Assistant*, v. 12, p. 48 (March, 1915).

R. T. Hardy. Private R. T. Hardy (18th County of London Regiment), who was a junior assistant at the Buckingham Palace Road Library previous to his enlistment in September, 1914, has been killed in action.

F. C. Harradine was appointed to the Poplar Libraries Staff in December, 1901, after having served for a short time in the Leyton Libraries. Purely from a sense of duty he enlisted in the 2-7th Battalion of the London Regiment in September, 1914. On September 15th, 1916, he was wounded, and died in France from the effects six days later. He was thirty years of age and unmarried. His death is one more example of the sacrifice to duty, for by nature he was of an artistic temperament to whom warfare and soldiering were things abhorred; but he endured the distastefulness and hardships of it all rather than ignore what appeared to him a clear call. The Poplar Libraries Committee at its last meeting placed on record its appreciation of his services and of his patriotic response to the call of his Country.

A. B. Johnson. Private A. B. Johnson (Bedfordshire Regiment), who was a junior assistant at the Buckingham Palace Road Library, has been killed in action. We understand that he was killed whilst endeavouring to save a wounded comrade.

Trevor Lewis. We regret to learn that Private Trevor Lewis (R.A.M.C.) has died from wounds. Previous to his enlistment in October, 1915, Mr. Lewis was engaged in the Periodicals Department of the National Library of Wales. He went to the front in April last, and in August was wounded in the head whilst removing wounded from the trenches. After being in hospital at Rouen and Hampstead he died on 20th September. The body was taken to Aberystwyth, where it was buried with military honours.

A. Richardson (Lewisham). Private A. Richardson, senior assistant at the Brockley Branch Library, was killed in action on 15th September, in the British Advance. Mr. Richardson had been on the staff of the Lewisham Libraries for fifteen years, and enlisted in the 15th County of London Regiment in July, 1915.

MISSING.

Privates ***P. A. Garner** and ***T. Riley** (Birmingham) are reported as missing since 22nd July, and it is feared that they are both killed, but no official news has yet been received to this effect.

WOUNDED.

Alfred Cullen. Private Alfred Cullen (London Scottish), who was an assistant in the Shoreditch Libraries from 1900 to February, 1914, and was then transferred to the Rates Department, was wounded on the Somme in July, and we regret to learn that it has been found necessary to amputate a foot.

***F. J. Patrick** (Birmingham). Acting Sergeant F. J. Patrick, formerly Honorary Secretary of the Midland Branch of the L.A.A., was wounded in the head in July, but we are glad to learn that he has now recovered and rejoined his unit.

***W. W. Howe** (Birmingham). Wounded in the arm with shrapnel.

***A. Collier** (Birmingham). We regret to learn that Private Collier has been discharged from the army as medically unfit through a bad attack of dysentery, contracted while on active service. We trust that in time Mr. Collier will regain the full measure of his health.

***Charles Nowell** (Norwich). Second-Lieutenant Charles Nowell was wounded by a bullet in the right shoulder on 16th September, whilst "pushing" beyond High Wood. For a short time he was in hospital in

The Bedford Binding.

OUR BINDING for Public Libraries is acknowledged to be the best.

OUR METHOD is **NOT** one of uniformity of **treatment**.

OUR PROCESS for strengthening the broken folds of sections is the latest and improved style **without over-sewing**.

OUR WORK AND MATERIALS are **essentially** the best.

THE BEDFORD BINDERY,
19, CRAWFORD PLACE, EDGWARE ROAD
LONDON, W.

BOOKS

For **STUDY & RECREATION**
Including—
LITERARY, EDUCATIONAL
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
and all other subjects.

Over 1,000,000 volumes in Stock. **SECOND HAND** at **HALF PRICES**. New at Discount Prices. Catalogue No. 943 Free. State Wants.

Library Replacements a Speciality. We devote a Special Department for Fiction and have thousands of Volumes in strictly classified order. Send us your List. Special Terms to Libraries. Books sent on approval. **BOOKS BOUGHT.**

W. & G. FOYLE, 121 - 123, Charing Cross Road

Telegrams: "Foylibra," London.

London W.C.

ATHENAEUM SUBJECT INDEX TO PERIODICALS.

The volume covering 1915 is now ready, and should be in the hands of all subscribers. If any have not received their copy, they are requested to apply to

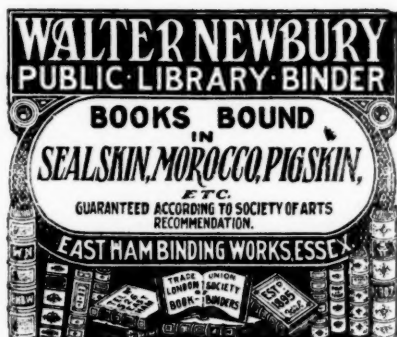
THE ATHENAEUM,

Bream's Buildings,

Chancery Lane, E.C.

A notice of the volume will appear in our next issue.

East Ham Bookbinding Works,



Plashet Lane and Elizabeth Road, East Ham, Essex.

BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR BOOK SCHEME (Educational).

The object of this Scheme is to provide British Prisoners of War interned in enemy or neutral countries with Educational Books.

The Committee has just issued a classified list of books, **each item of which represents an actual request received from some British prisoner.**

The following are a few books of which possibly some reader has a copy to spare:—

Gosse. English Literature.
Saintsbury. English Literature.
Halleck. English Literature.
Bradley. Shakespearean Tragedy.
Ben Jonson. Works.
Advanced Manual of Bookbinding.

For a complete list of books wanted, and all particulars, apply to:—

ALFRED T. DAVIES,
Board of Education,
Whitehall, S.W.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION LIBRARY.

Students are reminded that the extensive Professional Library of the Association is housed at the CENTRAL LIBRARY, HOLLOWAY ROAD, N.

The bulk of the collection is catalogued in the Union Class-List of the Libraries of the Library and Library Assistants' Associations (Sixpence net).

For conditions of borrowing, apply to :

Miss C. MITCHELL,
68, Holloway Road, N.

ALBUM OF HONOUR.

The Association is anxious to secure

PHOTOGRAPHS,

Of **all** Library Workers on Active Service. Also

NEWSPAPER AND OTHER CUTTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEMORIALS,

And any other material which can be incorporated in the Album of Honour, now being compiled.

See announcement on page 127.

Please send all material to :

MR. H. A. SHARP,
Central Library,
Town Hall,
Croydon.

"I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereunto."—FRANCIS BACON, BARON VERULAM.

ARE YOU HELPING?

The Library Assistants' Association

has done much good work for its Members and for LIBRARIANSHIP GENERALLY in the past. It has stimulated individual effort towards increased efficiency; it has always urged the further development of the Public Library Movement; it has stood for better conditions and has claimed a **STANDING FOR THE PROFESSION**. At the moment the Association is extending its influences and work, and needs the support and co-operation of all who are qualified for Membership; difficult problems lie ahead which can only be faced effectually by a strong Association.

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING.

You can quicken interest in your own vicinity. You can get new Members, or secure subscribers to "THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT." Perhaps you can obtain advertisements for "The Library Assistant."

WILL YOU TRY TO DO SOMETHING

for your Association? And will you try now? Remember that the L.A.A. was established TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO, and holds a recognized position. It is no new venture with its way to make.

Any information you may need will be gladly supplied by the *Hon. Secretary*, BROMLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK ROAD, POPLAR, LONDON, E.

Grays Inn Road, but has now recovered sufficiently to be discharged, and has been granted two months' leave.

***J. E. Watkin.** Private J. E. Watkin, of the National Library of Wales, who joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in November, 1914, was wounded by shrapnel in both legs in the early part of July. We are sorry to hear that it has been found necessary to amputate his left leg above the knee.

* Member, L.A.A.

† Fellow, L.A.A.

PROCEEDINGS.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING.

The First Meeting of the Twenty-Second Session was held at the Central Library, Shoreditch, on Wednesday, 11th October, 1916, at 7.30 p.m. The Chair was occupied by the Vice-President, Mr. Evan G. Rees. The minutes of the June Joint Meeting with the L.A. having been read and confirmed, the chairman called upon Mr. W. Benson Thorne, the Honorary Secretary, to open a discussion on "Ourselves and Our Affairs."

The first question discussed related to the desirability of holding professional meetings in war time, and the kind of meeting which was likely to be most profitable. In approaching the question, Mr. Thorne thought it very desirable that we should all be deeply convinced of the value of public libraries at the present time. There had been in some quarters a tendency to adopt an apologetic attitude for their continuance. This ought not to be, and would not be if we were all agreed that libraries and professional meetings were necessary in these days. Mr. Sayers (Croydon) expressed the opinion that the meeting should affirm its conviction of the value of meetings of such a character as might draw together library workers. He would seek to impress upon the profession the necessity of working and of being alive at this time. The Chairman said that in his judgment libraries were more wanted to-day than ever they were, for the purpose of supplying information on all matters pertaining to the War, as well as for the use of people too young or too old to take an active part in its prosecution.

With regard to the form of meeting which was likely to be most profitable, there was a unanimous expression of opinion that the informal discussion was likely to be more beneficial at the moment than the more formal meeting.

Miss Duménil (Hackney) drew attention to the efforts now being made by the London County Council in connection with their commercial classes, and thought that it was for the public libraries of London to do all in their power to co-operate in this matter. In agreeing with her, Mr. Sayers mentioned the case of one public library of which he knew, that had the courage to purchase 40 copies of a book (not a novel) for which there was an enormous demand at the moment.

Speaking of the problems which would have to be settled after the War, Mr. Hopwood (Patent Office) said that never yet had the voter been called upon to exercise his judgment to the extent that he will at the next General Election, when the nation will have to give important decisions, not the least of which will be those connected with our commercial relations. A library such as Mr. Sayers had suggested, containing a large number of copies of the important technical, commercial and other works would help the voter to exercise his judgment to the very best advantage. Mr. Sandry (West Ham) also expressed his agreement that more ought to be done in the way of duplicating popular works.

In summing up the discussion, Mr. Thorne said that it was evident that the meeting was thoroughly agreed that monthly meetings should be held, that they should be quite informal, and that we were also agreed as

to the continuance of the public library in the fulness of its strength, and that we would all do our part to attend the meetings.

MEMORIAL TO MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.

The second question brought forward was the kind of memorial we could raise to the men of the profession who had gone forth and fallen in the War. Mr. Sayers suggested that whatever else might be done, we should first prepare a record in the form of an album of photographs and cuttings relating to the men on service. This could be used as a basis for any other memorial.

He also thought that the memory of these men might be kept green by printing their names regularly as part of the Association's Annual Report, and by having an annual "Memorial Night" on which we could especially remember those who fell in the War.

Mr. Hopwood thought that as the profession did not centre in any particular building, the British Museum would be an excellent place in which to place a tablet in memory of all the men who fell in the War. Mr. Thorne suggested the idea of a volume, illustrated with portraits. It was generally thought, however, that the cost of its production would be prohibitive. As an alternative, Mr. Sharp (Croydon) proposed that at the end of the War, an issue (or more if necessary) of the *Library Assistant* might be devoted to a complete Roll of Honour, with notes on those who had fallen, and that it should afterwards be reprinted in the *L.A.A. Series*. Before concluding the discussion on this question, it was decided to commence the compilation of an Album forthwith. The Honorary Editor signified his willingness to undertake the work.

SOLDIERS ON LEAVE.

The next point discussed related to the extension of hospitality to colleagues who may be crossing our great cities, or for any other reason may have a short time to spare. Mr. Thorne thought it would be a good idea if it could be announced that some of us would be willing to receive professional colleagues for a meal or for a little conversation. Some members might be glad to meet library workers at the stations when they were crossing London, and to guide them on their way. There was also the case of the wounded and sick in our hospitals, who were oftentimes a long way from relatives or other friends. The idea commended itself to all who were present at the meeting.

The last point raised was with regard to the position of men who were disabled to such an extent as to unfit them for librarianship after the War. The point did not lend itself to much discussion, but it seems likely that men unfitted for work in one department of a Corporation's service may be transferred to another. It was also mentioned that local authorities had no power to grant pensions to any of their officers who might be disabled while on active service.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. W. C. Plant, for his kindness in allowing us to meet at Shoreditch, and the next meeting was fixed for the 15th November, the subject being "The Organization of the library service now for after war conditions," to be opened by Miss Gwendolen Rees.

APPOINTMENTS.

TATTERSALL, Miss GLADYS, of the Radcliffe Public Library, has been appointed senior assistant, Bury Public Library.

SOME PRINCIPLES OF BOOK SELECTION.*

BY REGINALD G. WILLIAMS, Chief Assistant, Central Lending Library,
Bolton.

When I was asked to read a paper before this Meeting, it did not take me long to decide on my subject, because I have always been interested in "Book Selection," as I consider it the most important duty that a librarian is called upon to perform, and I have attempted in my paper to bring before you some original proposals.

I should like to see more attention given to this subject by library assistants. In a large number of cases they never give the subject a moment's thought, being under the impression, perhaps, that they will never be called upon to select books for purchase. Having once made up their minds to take up the study of Book Selection, however, they must follow principles and not follow that old mechanical method "a careful reading through the 'Publishers' Circular' from A to Z, marking any book that is likely to be an acquisition to the Library; then check the proposed purchases by the Library Catalogue to see if the Library already possesses any, if not place them *en bloc* on the book list, without having read any reviews or prospectuses, or giving a thought to the essential principles of Book Selection." This method is commonly practised in a large number of our libraries to-day, and is, in my estimation, an "apology" for Book Selection.

Now, let us turn to the book selector who recognizes that with our limitation of rates we have no money to throw away on "chance" selected books. It will be his ambition to bring together the most suitable collection of books for the needs of the town he represents, and to accomplish this he should be governed in his selection by many principles, the first three being:—

The size of the locality.

Sum of money to be expended.

Geographical position of the library in relation to other libraries.

To these principles, the suggestive averages and percentages collected by the late Mr. J. D. Brown will give a good idea of the local requirements. The size of the locality will give the stock required, by reckoning a third of a book to each inhabitant. Of the result, allow 55 per cent. for the Lending Library and 45 per cent. for the Reference. A careful analysis of many

* A paper read before the Meeting of the North-Western Branch of the L.A.A., September, 1915.

annual reports of libraries shows that there is a great disparity in the percentage of income that is spent on the purchase of books. About 28 per cent. should be used if the Library is clear of debt. The sum of money available will determine approximately how narrow the librarian's selection from a selection must be.

The geographical position of the locality should have a great influence upon the character of the stock, for should it be near to a large town possessing a library that collects everything that goes by the name of "books" it would be folly to attempt to adopt the same principle. Of course, this is not meant to apply to standard works and constantly used books—whatever their price, they should be on the shelves of every public library. It is in the case of the more specialised expensive books that duplication can be avoided. Having considered the above principles, we now come to "the proportion of books that should be purchased in each class of literature in relation to the aggregate stock contained in the Library." Here again local conditions play an important part, for particular attention should be paid to the literature of the local industry. Many libraries ignore proportional representation, with the result that we find cases where one subject has as many as 20 books representing it while others equally important are represented by only two or three works. Many attempts have been made to draw up a list of percentages for the various classes, but these are mostly fallacious, owing to the different systems of classification, the varying local conditions, and even in some cases the taste of the librarian. However, from a careful study of the stocks of our many public libraries that are classified on modern methods, a uniformity of proportional representation may be made. I give below a suggestive table:—

Natural Science	10 per cent.
Philosophy	3 "
Religion	6 "
Sociology	7 "
Philology	3 "
Useful Arts	9 "
Fine and Recreative Arts ...	8 "
Literature	25 "
History, Travel and Biography...	24 "
General Works	5 "

Having carefully considered the above facts we must turn to our mechanical aids, *i.e.*, guide books to books, reviews, prospectuses, catalogues, etc., and with careful reading and the observance of the principles, no great difficulty should be found in making a satisfactory selection.

Books on certain subjects should never be purchased for public libraries. For instance, we cannot pretend to have a good selection and to keep it well up-to-date on such subjects as Midwifery, Dentistry, Medicine, Christian Science, etc. Although we must be very conservative in our selection, our incomes will not allow us to purchase many books that are not likely to appeal to many readers. Then again, books on the above-mentioned subjects are more likely to appeal to the select professional people of the town, and we must not cater for them at the expense of the middle or lower classes. The advanced professional student is a rare visitor to our lending libraries, except for books of a recreative kind. What subjects are to be omitted from our shelves must be decided by each librarian according to local conditions, income of the library, and the probable demand, if any, for such subjects.

Another principle of book selection is "never select a book for purchase by its author's name or by its title." In some cases the selection is made from the "Publishers' Circular" only, and though a selection from a selection is eventually made, the result is not always satisfactory. A short time ago I was told of the case of a librarian who had been on the look-out for a book on herbs, as his library did not contain any work on that subject. Looking through the "Publishers' Circular," he came across the following entry:—"Sweet herbs and bitter," by Morley Roberts. Down on the book-list it went, no review was read, even the author's name conveyed no suspicion, as it should have done. Imagine his surprise when the book came along and he found it was not a book on herbs at all, but a novel! Should a work with a promising title, like "fretwork," be selected with a view to purchase and no review can be found anywhere, the title should be written on a card and kept aside until a review of the work appears. I have been told that all books are not reviewed. If they were we should have fewer publications, but book-lovers and "book-keepers" may rest assured that all important and standard works are well reviewed. Reviews are beneficial to the publisher in the majority of cases, not because he will sell more copies, but because the work will be circulated in the right quarter, where it will pass on from recommendation to purchase. A great fault of the present-day review is that it criticises the author more than the work, it very often fails to give the scope, standpoint, etc., of the book. The ideal review is the one that points out the scope and limitations of the work, and gives a little information about the physical nature of the book. A good review will tell you immediately whether the book is likely to be of use to you or not.

A question that continually crops up in book selection is "what edition of a work should be purchased out of a number of editions?" Now the choice of an edition must first of all depend upon the nature of the work. Generally speaking, the last edition is best, if it contains additional matter, or is revised and brought up-to-date. There are many exceptions, however, and this only holds good for modern works, particularly those on technical or scientific subjects.

Having decided upon the principles of selection, the next step is to select. Before commencing to select the foundation stock of a public library, it will be as well to ensure that no subject of importance is overlooked. The tables of the classification to be adopted should be taken, and each section carefully checked as the selection is being made for that section. This is far better than getting your stock first and then looking for deficiencies, as the number then revealed will be surprisingly large and our limited means may compel some years to pass before all the deficiencies are made good.

Time will not permit me to go into the many details of practical selection, so I will content myself with a few remarks on the selection of Juvenile Literature and Prose Fiction.

(To be continued).

NEW MEMBERS.

North-Western Branch: **Member:** Miss ANNIE E. **Barron** (Walton and Fazakerley Library, Liverpool). **Associates:** Miss CONSTANCE **Fearnley** (Mere Hall Branch Library, Bolton); Miss M. M. **Jordan** (Administration Dept., Reference Library, Manchester); Miss HILDA **Kelley** (High Street Branch Library, Bolton); Miss C. **Smith** and Miss E. G. M. **Stanner** (Public Library, Chorlton-cum-Hardy); Miss EVA **Sydney** (Mere Hall Branch Library, Bolton); JOHN **Thorpe** (Central Lending Library, Bolton).

WEDDING.

WARNER—WILTON.—Gunner John Warner (R.M.A.) was married to Miss D. Wilton at Brighton on Friday, 20th October. Before joining the Navy he was a joint-editor of *The Library Assistant*. He is Deputy Librarian of Croydon, a Fellow of the Library Association, a Councillor of the Library Assistants' Association, and acted as Honorary Treasurer of the Fourth International Easter School. A brief honeymoon was spent at Eastbourne, after which the bridegroom returned to Cromarty, N.B., where he is stationed for the present. We wish the couple every happiness, and hope that before long they will be able to settle down.